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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,929	01/26/2004	Montserrat Pinol Pedret	8140ES	1928
23688	7590	11/16/2005	EXAMINER	
Bruce E. Harang PO BOX 872735 VANCOUVER, WA 98687-2735			GIRARDI, VANESSA MARY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	

DATE MAILED: 11/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/707,929	PEDRET ET AL.
	Examiner Vanessa Girardi	Art Unit 2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

 | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Amended and new claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lages et al. (US 6,191,672 B1). Lages et al. discloses a plugboard for housing sockets and micro-relays, of the type having a plurality of connectors, allowing connection of a plurality of sockets or micro-relays (Col. 2, lines 10-13), composed of a base 1 having a plurality of holes 15-17 for housing connectors 35, each of the plurality of connectors having a pair of connector pins 39 characterized in the holes 17, 15 are rotated 180° with regard to the position of the adjacent holes 16 intended for housing the connectors, in the plugboard (Col. 4, lines 14-17) and (Fig. 2) thereby allowing for all connector pins 39 to open and secure the plurality of connectors within the corresponding plurality of holes (Col. 3, lines 56-60).

With respect to claim 2; Lages et al. further discloses that the base 1 is provided with three holes 15-17 for housing three connectors 35 suitable for mounting sockets or micro-relays (Col. 3, lines 20-21), wherein the central hole is aligned 180° with regard to the two remaining holes intended for housing the connectors (Col. 3, lines 21-22).

With respect to claims 3 and 4; a plugboard for housing sockets and micro-relays characterized in that in each one of the holes 25-27 of the plugboard (Fig. 2), all the pins 39 of the connectors, sockets, or micro-relays can open ensuring the connection between plugboard and connectors, sockets or micro-relays introduced in the holes (Col. 3, lines 54-59).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 24, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

2. Applicant's argument regarding the secondary locking slides of the Lages et al. reference do not apply in light of the "open-ended" language with which the claims of the instant invention were made. The Applicant claims a plugboard for housing sockets and micro-relays . . . composed of . . . wherein each and every claim limitation cited is found in the Lages et al. reference.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vanessa Girardi: Telephone number (571) 272-5924.

Monday – Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (EST)

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext. 33.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VG
Art Unit 2833
November 1, 2005



THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER